

Rooney Ranch, Basement House  
Rooney Road and West Alameda Parkway  
Morrison Vicinity  
Jefferson County  
Colorado

HABS No. CO-65-G

HABS.  
COLD,  
30-MORR.V,  
1-G-

PHOTOGRAPHS

WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

Historic American Buildings Survey  
National Park Service  
Rocky Mountain Regional Office  
Department of the Interior  
P.O. Box 25287  
Denver, CO 80225

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY

ROONEY RANCH, BASEMENT HOUSE

HABS No. CO-65-G

HABS  
COLO.  
30-MORR.V,  
1-G-

Location:

Junction of Rooney Road and West Alameda Parkway,  
Morrison vicinity, Jefferson County, Colorado

UTM Coordinates, Morrison, Colorado Quad:

- A. 13/483860 4393200
- B. 13/483840 4392250
- C. 13/483040 4392250
- D. 13/483040 4393200

Date of Construction:

1942.

Present Owner:

Alexander Rooney  
Otis Alex Rooney  
Eileen Louis Rooney  
George R. and Kathryn Rooney  
Lynda P. Simmons  
James P. Simmons  
James Addison and Virginia Dawn Vesey  
Security Realty  
Jefferson County Open Space Department

Present Use:

Residence.

Significance:

Rooney Ranch, one of the oldest ranches in Jefferson County, Colorado, is significant for its local historical associations and for the high quality of masonry construction exhibited in its principal structures.

The significance of the ranch to the historical and architectural development of Jefferson County was recognized in 1975 when the site was listed on the National Register of Historic Places. Rooney Ranch was designated a Jefferson County Landmark the following year.

Historian:

Kenneth M. Gambrill  
Kathryn M Kuranda  
Colorado Department of Highways  
August, 1983

The Basement House is a parged cinderblock structure sited into the side of a hill. The building was constructed by Alex Rooney in 1942 as the foundation for a two story house. The house was never constructed and the foundation was converted to a dwelling with the addition of an exaggerated wooden cornice and gable roof. An exterior-end, sandstone chimney with a straight stack rises from the northwest elevation. The building's entrance and a one-light-over-one-light window occupy the northeast elevation opening originally designed for a garage. The Basement House is currently occupied by Alex Rooney's son, John.